

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

Please amend claims 53 and 56, without prejudice, as set forth in the following Claims Listing, which replaces any prior Claims Listing:

1. – 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously presented) An isolated protein having the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:23.

34. (Previously presented) A mature, processed form of the isolated protein of claim 33, having the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:35.

35. – 48. (Cancelled)

49. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the isolated protein of claim 33 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

50. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 49 which is immunogenic.

51. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the isolated protein of claim 34 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

52. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 51 which is immunogenic.

53. (Currently Amended) An isolated protein, the entire amino acid sequence of which has at least 80% sequence identity to the entire amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:35 and which comprises the entire conserved region amino acids of SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:35, respectively, wherein the isolated protein is not a ~~full-length wild~~

type NhhA polypeptide and is capable of eliciting an immune response to a plurality of strains of *N. meningitides meningitides*.

54. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the isolated protein of claim 53 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

55. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 54 which is immunogenic.

56. (Currently Amended) An isolated protein, the entire amino acid sequence of which has at least 90% sequence identity to the entire amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:35 and which comprises the entire conserved region amino acids of SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:35, respectively, wherein the isolated protein is not a ~~full-length wild type~~ NhhA polypeptide and is capable of eliciting an immune response to a plurality of strains of *N. meningitides meningitides*.

57. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the isolated protein of claim 56 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

58. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 57 which is immunogenic.